

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-30

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O R 272030Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 7466

INFO SECDEF

DOD FOR DIA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5565

EXDIS

SUMMARY: DCM WAS TOLD EVENING JULY 26 THAT ONE ARGENTINE VESSEL, THE "RIO ATUEL", IS PRESENTLY ENROUTE FROM CUBA WITH CUBAN CARGO. THE DCM WAS FURTHER INFORMED THAT ANOTHER ARGENTINE VESSEL, THE "FLETERO,"

IS NOW ACCEPTING CARGO IN BA FOR CUBA. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO NOTIFY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT UNDER SECTION 620 (A) (3) OF FAA NO FURTHER MAP TRAINING FUNDS CAN BE PROVIDED TO ARGENTINA. WE PLAN TO NOTIFY GOA AT NOON JULY 30, AND RECOMMEND THAT SIMULTANEOUS NOTIFICATION BE GIVEN AMB. ORFILA IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DCM CALLED ON FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS EVENING JULY 26 TO ONCE AGAIN ASCERTAIN STATUS OF GOA EFFORTS TO SHIFT CUBAN TRADE CARGO TO NON-ARGENTINE FLAG VESSELS, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF JULY 30 DEADLINE SET BY GENERAL ANAYA FOR DECISION ON SCHEDULED MAP TRAINING TRAVEL. FORMIN OFFICIAL STATED THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED AS YET ON A POLICY TO END SHIPMENTS ON ARGENTINE VESSELS BUT THAT FORMIN IS GATHERING PERINENT MATERIAL IN SUPPORT OF A PLANNED APPROACH TO THE ECONMINISTRY TO ARRIVE AT POLICY DECISION. HE THEN SAID THERE IS ONE ARGEITINE SHIP, THE "FLETERO", NOW IN BA LOADING CARGO FOR CUBA. THERE IS ANOTHER SHIP, THE "RIO ATUEL", ENROUTE TO ARGENTINA WITH CUBAN CARGO. DCM WAS ASSURED THAT AS EVIDENCE OF FORMIN EFFORTS TO MOVE GOA IN DIRECTION OF COMPLIANCE WITH OUR LEGISLATION, THE "ENTRE RIOS", NOW IN CUBA, HAS BEEN ORDERED NOT TO PICK UP ANY CARGO FOR ITS RETURN TRIP TO BA.

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2. IT IS APPARENT THAT FORMIN NOW SEES TRANSITION TO NON-ARGENTINE FLAG VESSELS AS ONE REQUIREING MUCH TIME AND NEGOTIATIONS, AND IS BENDING ITS EFFORTS IN THAT DIRECTION. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE SUCH EFFORTS EVEN THROUGH IN MEANTIME GRANT ASSISTANCE IS SUSPENDED.

3. WE DO NOT WANT OPEN CONFRONTATION ON THIS ISSUE. NEITHER DOES THE FORMIN. HOWEVER, THERE ARE THOSE IN THE ECONMINISTRY, INCLUDING THE MINISTER HIMSELF, WHO MAY USE AID SUSPENSION TO FURTHER THEIR POLITICAL INTERESTS BY ACCUSING USG OF INTERFERENCE IN ARGENTINE COMMERCIAL POLICIES. SUCH CHARGES WOULD FIND CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY IF REINFORCED BY LINKAGE WITH GREGG AND TIRE CASES, AS WELL AS POSSIBLE COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON SHOES.

4. WE PROPOSE AT THIS END TO INFORM FORMIN ORALLY ON JULY 30 AT 12:00 NOON LOCAL TIME (11:00 AM WASHINGTON TIME) THAT SECTION 620 (A) (3) REQUIRES THAT WE NOT MAKE ANY MONIES AVAILABLE UNDER FAA.

5. CHIEF MILGRP WILL AT SAME TIME INFORM MINDEF ORALLY. IN THE ABSENCE OF LT. GEN. ANAYA, ARMY COMMANDING GENERAL, HE WILL ALSO INFORM BG VIDELA, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, AND LEAVE THE FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION WITH HIM IN WRITING-AS INSISTED ON BY GENERAL ANAYA: "WITH REFERENCE TO OUR RECENT CONVERSATION, I WIAHSH TO INFORM YOU THAT AT THIS TIME THE MILITARY GROUP OF THE UNITED STATES CAN NOT FUND THE COURSES AND OTHER TRAINING PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED."

6 PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR CONCURRENCE THIS APPROACH.
HILL

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